

**City of Wichita
District III Advisory Board Meeting
Jan. 6, 2010**

To: City Council Member Jim Skelton
District III Advisory Board Members

Subject: Wichita Initiative to Renew the Environment

Initiated by: Kansas University School of Medicine-Wichita

Agenda: New Business

Recommendations: Receive and File.

Background: In October 2008 the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health of the KU School of Medicine-Wichita received an Environmental Protection Agency Level 1 CARE grant in the amount of \$100,000 to establish a local CARE program. The local program is known as WIRE (Wichita Initiative to Renew the Environment). The project is in its second year of funding and the Level 1 phase of the project will conclude in 2010. The grant is administered by EPA Region 7 office will administer the grant through a cooperative agreement with the School of Medicine-Wichita in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health. The purpose of the grant is to solicit community input regarding environmental issues associated with air, water, solid waste, and other environmental matters impacting the public.

Analysis: Since its inception the WIRE project has completed the following activities:

- Established a design team steering committee and an Environmental Leadership Council consisting of representatives of local government, business, academia and education, environmental organizations and neighborhood associations.
- Completed over 50 discussion group sessions with over 1500 citizens participating. A majority of participants were from neighborhood associations..

The current status of the project involves ranking the 20 environmental issues identified by the community discussion and to prepare for seeking continued Level 2 funding from the Environmental Protections Agency.

Financial Considerations: If successful the KU School of Medicine-Wichita could potentially be eligible for Level 2 funding in the amount of \$300,000 for community education and technical assistance regarding environmental issues.

Goal Impact: Inform the district on environmental matters.

Legal Considerations: None

Recommendation/Actions: Receive and file